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Under the Wazīr Wazārat are *tahsīldārs* and sometimes subdivisional officers. All these officers exercise revenue, civil, and criminal jurisdiction, with regular stages of appeal. In revenue cases the appeal lies to the governor, and from him to the revenue minister. In civil and criminal judicial cases the appeal lies to the Chief Judge of Jammu. From him there is an appeal to the judicial minister, who is virtually the final court, and it is only on rare occasions that an appeal is made from him to the Mahārājā. All death sentences passed by the Chief Judge require the confirmation of the Mahārājā. In 1900–1 there were eighty-one courts of all grades, of which eight exercised criminal jurisdiction only. Although there is a centralized form of government as in British India, the real power rests with the *tahsīldār*, and distance and the absence of easy communications are practically checks on the use or abuse of appeals.

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Before 1892, when the law of limitation was introduced into Jammu, litigation was not very heavy and the people frequently settled their differences out of court. The improvement in the courts, and the effects of this alteration in the law, are shown by the fact that the number of suits for money or movable property increased from an average of 3,735 during the ten years ending 1890 to 10,766 in the next decade, and was 12,160 in 1900–1. The system of registration for deeds resembles that in British India. In 1900–1 the number of documents registered was 1,348.

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Crime is not serious in the Jammu province; but there has been an increase in cases of theft, hurt, and mischief, due to the greater activity of the police force, which is being gradually assimilated to the rules and procedure prevailing in British India. In the whole State 17,320 persons were brought to trial in 1900–1, of whom 2,169, or 13 per cent., were convicted.

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In Kashmīr the *tahsīls* in the valley are superintended by the governor himself, while those of the Muzaffarābād district are in charge of a Wazīr Wazārat subject to the governor and the Chief Judge, whose offices are in Srīnagar.

652 **Finance.**

The finances of the State are immediately controlled by an accountant-general, who for some years has been lent by the British Government. The revenue and expenditure for 1895–6, 1900–1, and 1905–6 are shown in tables at the end of this article (pp. 84–5). In the last year the total revenue was 93 lakhs, the chief items being land revenue (38·9 lakhs), forests (13 lakhs), customs and octroi (9·2 lakhs), and scientific and minor departments (2·2 lakhs). The expenditure of one crore included

175 to forgo all duty on the trade between Central Asia and
439 British India, in return for the same concession made by the Indian Government for goods imported into the State through British India.

175 Maharaja Ranbir Singh was a great patron of letters and art. He encouraged research and gathered a good library of Sanskrit and Persian manuscripts.

In 1872, there occurred a fierce clash between the Shia and Sunni Muslims in Kashmir. The disturbances were put down and the Maharaja gave Rs. 3 lakhs to the Shias for relief. The great famine of 1877 followed, when owing to excessive rains, much of the harvest was washed away. The misery of the people became unbearable: whole villages were in ruins, fields were deserted and trade became extinct. The calamity marked the end of the old system. During the last five years of Maharaja Ranbir Singh's reign, the assessment of revenue was revised, and the cart road connecting Rawalpindi with Srinagar was commenced.

[692] In 1872, a mixed court of British and State officials
648 was set up for the decision of civil suits between European
175 British subjects and their servants on the one hand and the subjects of His Highness the Maharaja on the other. Political relations between the State and British India were conducted through the Punjab Government up to 1877, when the Officer on Special Duty was placed directly under the Government of India. In the Afghan War of 1878-80, the Maharaja sent a contingent of troops and artillery to assist the British Government.

175 **Maharaja Pratap Singh (1885-1925).**—Maharaja
648 Ranbir Singhji died in 1885 and was succeeded by his
643 eldest son, Maharaja Pratap Singhji. After the new Maharaja's accession, a British Resident was appointed in place of the Officer on Special Duty. The mixed court appointed in 1872 was abolished, and the Resident and his assistants were invested with powers to dispose of civil suits in which both parties were British subjects, or the defendant was a British subject or an Indian subject of His Majesty. A Council was constituted for the administration of the State with Raja Sir Amar Singh, the Maharaja's younger brother, and two selected officers from the Government of India as members. Raja Sir Amar Singh played a very large part in the administration till his death in 1907. He was keenly interested in the development of

family or the management of His Highness' household; 642
(b) relations, treaties, conventions or agreements 646
between the State and His Majesty the King Emperor of India or the Government of India or with the Foreign Powers or the Government of any State in India;
(c) matters of frontier policy;
(d) organization, discipline and control of the State Army;
(e) the provisions of the Constitution Act and the rules made thereunder.

The Praja Sabha has constituted Standing Committees [647] for Finance, Industries, Public Health, Agriculture, Co-operation and Education.

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A High Court comprising a Chief Justice and two 692 puisne Judges was established by His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur in March 1928. The Judges of the High Court hold office during the pleasure of His Highness. In 1930, in view of the marked improvement in the judicial administration of the State, the jurisdiction exercised by Residency courts in certain categories of civil cases was ceded to the State courts. Almost all the judicial [693] officers in the State are either barristers or graduates in law. Rules similar to those in British India govern the enlistment of pleaders and advocates in the State. Generally speaking, the civil and criminal laws of the State are similar to and modelled upon the British Indian laws. Recently, the jurisdiction of the High Court of Judicature has been extended to Poonch and Chenani *Jagirs*. Altogether there are 150 civil and criminal courts in the State. The total number of legal practitioners including advocates practising in all the courts is 319.

As provided by the new Constitution Act, a Judicial Advisory Board was established to advise His Highness in regard to the disposal of judicial cases going up to him. The Board discharges the same functions in the State as are performed by the Privy Council in the case of British India. Last year, the Board consisted of three retired Judges of the High Court of Allahabad.

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The 10th of September 1943 was a red letter day in the history of the administration of justice in the State.

692 On this day, His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur was graciously pleased to grant Letters Patent to the High Court of Judicature similar to those of High Courts in British India. This gave the court a status and prestige of its own.

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647 In July 1943, His Highness was pleased to appoint a
657 Commission of Enquiry, under the presidentship of
185 R. B. Ganga Nath, Chief Justice and President Praja Sabha, consisting principally of non-official members of the Praja Sabha and others representing different interests and communities to ascertain whether the existing constitution of the State had worked well and with a view to formulating a policy for the future and the evolution of an organic scheme for the administration of the State. The Commission has also been required to make recommendations to secure (1) the safety, integrity and security of the State, (2) the efficient and progressive character of the administration, (3) the uninterrupted and harmonious progress of the State with the object of drawing all the communities inhabiting its territories closer to one another in the common service of the State, (4) the development of the economic resources of the State and its people leading to a higher and healthier standard of life, (5) the increasing representation of the State-subjects in the higher offices of the State and the adoption of a policy aiming at the association of State-subjects of all denominations with the administration of the State, (6) the strict enforcement of the policy that appointments under the Government shall be reserved for the subjects of the State except where the possession of expert or technical knowledge or experience unavailable within the State, may make it essential to import outsiders for a temporary period only or except where any special reasons may justify the appointment of an outsider to an administrative post for a definite period, and (7) the adoption of effective measures to stamp out corruption in any shape or form from all departments of the State.

The particular attention of the Commission has been drawn to a number of specific matters, mentioned below:—

(1) provision of nursing and medical facilities particularly in the rural areas;

State some measures vital to the advancement of the people, such as the Prevention of Infant Marriage Regulation, raising the age of consent to 14 for girls and 18 for boys and the stoppage of female infanticide amongst Rajputs and prohibition of juvenile smoking. Many of the improvements in trade, industry, communications, education, irrigation, sanitation etc. which have already been dealt with owe their origin to his solicitude to see his subjects happy and prosperous.

The administration is conducted by His Highness through Ministers (now headed by a Prime Minister) who enjoy large powers in their respective portfolios. His Highness has followed a policy of decentralization of powers in all branches of administration consistent with efficiency and good Government.

31. **Courts.**—The stability and growth of society hinges to a large extent on the efficient and speedy administration of justice through the channel of Judicial Courts and on the enactment of laws conducive to the welfare of the masses. The Census Report is not the proper place to record an account of the various salutary laws passed during the decade as the space is naturally limited and no justice can be done to the subject. As regards the Judicial system of the State it is modelled on the British Indian system of administration of justice with certain important differences such as the exercise of civil and criminal jurisdiction by the same judicial officers and the facilities allowed to litigants to appear personally in the High Court to plead their case. The separation for which a vigorous and persistent demand exists in British India is already in operation here.

The decade has witnessed the formation of a High Court Bench consisting of a Chief Justice and two Judges in supersession of the former system of a single Chief Justice of the High Court. His Highness takes a personal interest in the selection of Judges who can consequently compare favourably with their compeers in British India. The judiciary in the subordinate courts is recruited from amongst qualified hands who are either barristers or graduates of law.

The total number of Courts has increased as will be seen in the margin.

	Number of Courts.	
	1921.	1931.
Civil Courts ..	50	64
Criminal Courts ..	122	127
Revenue " exercising criminal powers ..	96	97
Lawyers including Advocates ..	173	177

The number of suits disposed in 1931 comes to 21,904 while the suits filed number 20,641 which is a sure proof of the fact that justice is not deferred but promptly administered. Moreover the spirit of litigation seems on the decline as the number of suits filed in 1921 was 23,009. The expenditure of the Judicial Department has risen from Rs. 510,938 in 1921 to Rs. 648,246 in 1930. The highest expenditure was incurred in 1928 when it came to Rs. 733,302. The total cost of administration of justice for the decade is Rs. 7,008,725.

32. **Police.**—The decade has witnessed the augmentation of the Police Force in all ranks and a rise in the status and emoluments of these custodians of public peace and safety. The diagram in the margin will convince the reader of the rapid progress made in the State in this direction. The Executive and the Clerical Staff was separated. The total cost of Police Force in 1930 was Rs. 712,588 compared to Rs. 414,621 in 1920, giving an increase of 71·8 per cent. As regards offences, those against State and public tranquility, murders and other offences against person exhibited an increase, while

	1931
Inspector-General of Police ..	1
Deputy Inspector-General of Police ..	2
Superintendents of Police ..	7
Assistant Superintendents of Police ..	6
Inspectors ..	16
Sub-Inspectors ..	29
Head Constables ..	287
Constables ..	2,477